

WEATHER FORECAST.

Partly cloudy to-day; to-morrow unsettled; mild temperature; gentle to moderate variable winds.

Highest temperature yesterday, 75; lowest, 58. Detailed weather reports will be found on Editorial page.

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PRICE TWO CENTS

THREE CENTS
WITHIN 300 MILES
FOUR CENTS ELSEWHERE.

DECLARES BALL PLAYERS ARE IN GAMBLERS GRIP

Grand Jury Foreman Is Shocked at Testimony in Chicago Inquiry.

SOX MEN INVOLVED

Ban Johnson Tells of Vast Sum Bet on Cleveland to Win Pennant.

BENTON BARES OFFERS

Denies Making \$3,800 in 1919 Series—Makes Charge Against Herzog and Chase.

By a Staff Correspondent of THE SUN and NEW YORK HERALD.

CHICAGO, Sept. 23.—(By the Sun-Herald.)—The grand jury, president of the American League, made the statement to-day that he had been told that the White Sox would not dare to win this year's pennant because the managers of a gambling syndicate said to have certain players in their power had forbidden it. It was added that these gamblers had backed Cleveland heavily to win.

This syndicate, Mr. Johnson added he had heard, threatened to expose the manner in which White Sox players sold out the 1919 world's series unless the Cleveland club wins the pennant. Attaches of the District Attorney's office declared to-night that if this story could be substantiated it disclosed a new and dangerous kind of blackmail. The Cook County Grand Jury, which is investigating baseball gambling, will call Mr. Johnson and delve deep into the information he possesses.

The principal witness before the Grand Jury to-day was Jacob, or Rubie, Benton, one of the star pitchers of the New York Giants.

"Gentlemen," Benton began, "I have no axe to grind. I have been summoned to tell you all I know, and nearly everything I know, and I have said it. I am not a gambler, and I have never been. I have never seen any of the players who were supposed to be gamblers, and I have never seen any of the money that was supposed to be paid to them."

There is a gambling clique of professional bookmakers in Pittsburgh who advance money to major league ball players to bet on games in which these players participate. A called one of the New York Giants team can substantiate this charge, according to Benton.

That Hal Chase, New York Giants pitcher, who was dropped from organized ball last year, cleaned up over \$25,000 by placing bets on the world's series games last fall.

That Hal Chase and Buck Herzog of the Chicago Cubs offered to "throw" the game to the Cubs the last day of a series between Chicago and New York last fall.

That Heinie Zimmerman, Giant third baseman, who was dropped at the same time Chase was released, told Benton he was a "book" and that 400 bucks were waiting for him had he thrown the game.

Answers Herzog Charges.

Members of the Grand Jury asked Benton if he had any explanation to offer regarding the charges made by Buck Herzog that he (Benton) had received a wire from Hal Chase, telling him to bet on the Cincinnati team, that they would beat the White Sox in the world's series.

"I certainly would like to make an explanation," answered Benton. "It looks as if some one is trying to make a big out of it. I played on the Cincinnati team for six years under Clark Griffith, Hank O'Day, Joe Tinker and Herzog, and respectfully ask this investigating body to call every one of the managers I have mentioned and ask every one of them, with the exception of Herzog, who has no regard for the truth, and ask them if Rubie Benton ever told a lie or ever did anything that wasn't a boost for baseball."

"I'll tell you the true story about the whole affair with Herzog and Hal Chase. I didn't receive any telegram myself, but I have seen several telegrams. In one case I remember a telegram being received by Jean Dubuc, member of the Giants last season, and the wording of it as I remember was: 'Bet on Cincinnati to-morrow. I was in New York at the time. As for any telegrams coming from Hal Chase, he was in New York with me just before we were to go barnstorming in Canada.'"

Benton was handed a copy of the story containing the charges made by Herzog in which it was stated that Benton had charged in his turn that he had been offered a bribe of \$500 to "throw" a game to the Cubs.

Tells of "Easy Money" Offer.

"I don't know of any case of out and out crookedness," said Benton, "but I do know this: On the day before the last game of the season between the Cubs and the Giants we had finished the game and I got in a taxi with Hal Chase and Herzog and went downtown to the hotel. We had a few drinks there, and I said to them: 'Do you want to make some easy money?' Herzog did nearly all the talking. The bartender heard our conversation. I didn't know where the place was, but it was in the loop near the Hotel La Salle. Herzog was stopping there at the time."

"I thought Chase and Herzog were kidding me. So I kidded them back. I said: 'How can I make this easy money? All you have to do is throw them up without anything on 'em,' they said. They told me there was a betting commission on all the bets, and I said: 'I have them no assurances what I would do. They left me saying that they were in touch with me early the next day.'"

"How did the game come out the next day?"

Continued on Eighth Page.

Lawyers Wear Evening Dress for Woman Jury

DANVILLE, Ill., Sept. 23.—Attorneys of Rockville, Ill., near here, solved a question of etiquette caused by the impending trial of twelve women for jury duty when they appeared in the Park County court in full evening dress, according to information from there to-day.

MASSACHUSETTS TO RATION COAL

Administration Controls Anthracite Sales Throughout the State.

FUEL FAMINE IS FEARED

Limit of 3 Tons to Any One Family—Hoarding To Be Prevented.

Special to THE SUN and NEW YORK HERALD.

BOSTON, Sept. 23.—The State control of the distribution of anthracite coal in Massachusetts to-day under an order issued by Gov. Coolidge, by which the rationing of coal to the householders will begin at once.

The order directs retail coal dealers of the State not to deliver more than three tons of anthracite to any one family and to deliver no coal to any family that has more than one month's supply on hand. The order was made public by Eugene C. Hultman, chairman of the State Commission on Necessaries of Life, also Fuel Administrator.

The new regulation came directly after a conference at the State House of Gov. Coolidge, the committee of coal dealers and F. E. Dewey, transportation expert of the New Haven Railroad.

Gov. Coolidge issued a statement apart from the coal committee's ration order, the gist of which was for the public not to be alarmed, that he was confident there would be no fuel shortage, but for the public to "use coal carefully and not to hoard it."

Secret Session Held.

The conference, which was called to consider the hard coal shortage, was a long one and held in secret. At the close of the session it was made known that the order was issued to make every effort to get hard coal here in train loads, and when it is here to have its distribution supervised by the special committee of five coal dealers.

The fuel situation, however, is critical, and Boston and New England householders are again on the verge of another winter with little or no coal in their cellars.

In this city the price—when one can get the coal—is generally around \$18 a ton, but in scores of cities and towns in New England one is compelled to pay \$15 and \$20 for anthracite coal. Even higher prices have been paid by cities and towns and by manufacturers to secure bituminous coal.

Only One Month's Supply.

Few families can be found that have more than one month's supply in their cellars. Three tons maximum allowed under the rationing order, and the situation is one of extreme scarcity.

In this city the price—when one can get the coal—is generally around \$18 a ton, but in scores of cities and towns in New England one is compelled to pay \$15 and \$20 for anthracite coal. Even higher prices have been paid by cities and towns and by manufacturers to secure bituminous coal.

The Governor and his associates, in this fuel emergency, believe that if the coal producers can be induced to rush coal here in train loads and to live up to their contracts with Massachusetts coal dealers the difficulty will soon be righted.

BARRETT RELEASED BY LOS ANGELES POLICE

Warrant for Arrest Is Not Asked for From London.

Special to THE SUN and NEW YORK HERALD.

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 23.—Capt. William N. (Diamond Bill) Barrett, held in custody of detectives for more than twenty-four hours pending an inquiry into the reported loss of \$125,000 worth of jewels by Mrs. John D. Spreckels, Jr., in London, was turned free late this afternoon.

Mrs. Spreckels, who is the second wife of John D. Spreckels, Jr., is the former Miss Sidie Wirt, a dancer and entertainer.

Barrett's release was effected when his attorney, H. D. Giesler, served notice on the detectives that habeas corpus proceedings would be started at 4 P. M. unless a formal warrant was issued or the receipt of definite word confirming the report that Barrett was wanted in London. From the State Department in Washington it was learned that no request for extradition had come from England.

Attorney Giesler is awaiting further word from Barrett's London solicitor, E. E. Edwards, who has been asked to explain the matters which led to the five-cabled report Tuesday that Capt. Barrett was wanted in connection with the asserted jewel loss. Other cables have been sent to Scotland Yard and to the London newspaper which published a statement that a warrant had been issued.

SUBWAY BLAZE CAUSES PANIC

Small Damage Results When Sparks Ignite Tiles.

Sparks from the shoe of a Manhattan bound West Side subway train early last night ignited the tile floor south of the Clark street station, Brooklyn. Dense smoke from the blaze threw passengers on the station into a panic and sent them scurrying into the elevators to the street. The blaze was extinguished after fifteen minutes, having caused slight damage, but train service was delayed half an hour.

MRS. SPRECKELS SAYS BARRETT SOLD HER GEMS

Asserts Alice Drexel's Husband Got \$80,000 Necklace by a Subterfuge.

INSURANCE IS DENIED

Had Her Diamond Ring Also Before Fleeing to Los Angeles, Is Charge.

CREDITORS CLOSING IN

But Fugitive Left Nothing for London Note Holders and Pawnbrokers.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN and NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Sept. 23.—Flatly refuting the assertion made in Los Angeles by William N. (Diamond Bill) Barrett, husband of Alice Gordon Drexel of Philadelphia, New York and Newport, and veteran of the world war, that she had sold to a jeweler in Regent street a valuable necklace of pearls and diamonds, Mrs. John D. Spreckels, Jr., declared this afternoon that it was Barrett's suggestion that she insure the necklace and get the diamonds cleaned, saying he would do this for her, with the result, she said, that she handed the necklace over to him.

Mrs. Spreckels expressed the opinion that Barrett was in hard circumstances and sold the diamonds to get ready cash, afterward being unable to make good. She added, however, that this did not alter the fact that he disposed of the jewels and then ran away.

Mrs. Spreckels was surprised and disgusted when she learned from the correspondence of THE SUN and NEW YORK HERALD this morning that Barrett had been located in Los Angeles. She had intended to leave here for home next Saturday, but may change her mind now and remain here a while longer and try to get the case on this side of the Atlantic cleaned up.

Believes Barrett Is Deep in Debt. "Undoubtedly Barrett is in debt and probably will say anything to keep out of the hands of his creditors," she said. "But he has some time. When I saw him last, two or three months ago, he said everything was all right, and urged me not to be nervous. He said he had already arranged to make good the return of the jewels, but instead of going to France, as he told me, he ran away to America."

"Then after calling an assurance he would repay, he completely disappeared. He said he had first known me in 1914, and I am sorry for him, but he did not show good faith and caused me much worry and annoyance."

A meeting of Barrett's creditors was held at the bankruptcy court this afternoon, brought about as a result of Mrs. Spreckels' application for a warrant for Barrett's arrest. His total liabilities were placed at \$15,000, and his assets on the London side were estimated at \$12,443 in promissory notes, less the value of a diamond ring held as security, but which Mrs. Spreckels says is hers and over which she has placed a writ to prevent him from selling it. Other creditors are an antique dealer and a landlord, who asks money for rent and the replacement of certain articles, including a gold ash stand and a silver cigarette box.

It was stated that two jewellers in Bond street also would put in large claims. These were reported to be for an expensive silverware service bought on the London side of the credit of his wife's daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Drexel, who is now in Nice. It was reported that other Barrett creditors would come forward in swarms now that the storm has broken.

Mrs. Spreckels said she met Barrett here after he had made a tour of the world, and he had been back in London for some time. She said she had known him for eight years ago; that she always found him in the best circles. She knew he had married Alice Gordon Drexel. She declared she had no idea of his going to America, and she said she had no idea of his going to America.

Mrs. Spreckels said she went with Barrett to the States, as he frequently and considered him quite a good friend of her and her husband. She said he was with her when she bought the heart necklace, which cost \$80,000, and that after the purchase he strongly urged her to have it insured.

Mrs. Spreckels said that she was not inclined to be harsh with Barrett; that she felt he had not intended first off to keep the jewels, but merely got deeply into debt and took advantage of a woman and the strength of friendship. Then, she declared, he could not make repayment, and she was undoubtedly completely unstrung when she saw him last, and that when he left her she felt sorry for him, but wanted her jewels.

Mrs. Spreckels said some of the diamond hearts had been located, but that the largest had been removed from the string. She expressed the hope of being able to locate the missing ones and asked the London police to help her in this. She said that in one cable dispatch from New York Barrett asked a solicitor here if "Madame" would be satisfied with a certain amount. She answered, she said, "Yes," because she believed it was about enough to cover the cost of the jewels. But when she heard nothing further from him, she added, her husband told her to get a warrant for Barrett's arrest.

John D. Spreckels, Jr., is in Norway on a business trip, but will return here soon.

New Service Via Seaboard Air Line

Drawing room, compartment and section sleeper to Key West, leaving New York P. M. 8:04 P. M.; arriving Key West 5:30 second morning. Steamer leaves 10 P. M. arriving Havana 9:30 second morning. 1124 Broadway—Adm.

Coolidge Gets a Buckeye Picked by Mrs. Harding

BOSTON, Sept. 23.—A group of Ohio legislators here presenting a convention here presented to Gov. Coolidge a buckeye which Mrs. Harding, wife of the Presidential nominee, had picked up under a tree directly in front of the Marion porch.

She forwarded the nut to him with the message that if he carried it in his right hand trousers pocket it would ward off rheumatism.

Although the Governor is not susceptible to the ailment the buckeye now reposes in his pocket.

HOUSING BILLS TO PASS TO DAY

But Three Measures Agreed On in Albany Will Give Only Temporary Relief.

LOBBYISTS FIGHT HARD

Lockwood's Men Expect to Find Building Materials and Mortgage Trusts.

By a Staff Correspondent of THE SUN and NEW YORK HERALD.

ALBANY, Sept. 23.—The Legislature spent another full day of its special session struggling with the housing bills designed to meet the October moving emergency and fighting with the score of conflicting interests here to promote or defeat special measures.

At the conclusion of their long, hard task to-day the lawmakers began to put final touches on bills they believe will offer temporary relief but which fall far short of anything like a permanent solution of the situation. The programme probably will be rushed through some time to-morrow. Five bills of minor importance were passed to-day.

Almost as important as the proposed laws is a resolution drafted to-night in conference of the legislative leaders proposing to give the Lockwood housing committee sweeping powers to investigate the so-called building material trust and to determine whether savings banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions are in position to invest a larger amount of their reserve in real estate mortgages.

Representatives of the financial interests declared to-day at the big hearing held by the joint committee in the Assembly chamber that there were strong reasons for opposing the proposed measures to invest a larger amount of their reserve in real estate mortgages.

The State proposes to find out whether that is true.

Heavy Grip by "Building Trust." Sensational charges have been made regarding the grip the "building trust" has on material and the "agreement" that powerful financial interests are said to have effected in maintaining the so-called mortgage trust. The State has asked Congress to investigate the building material trust and to determine whether there is a trust in control. It is understood that there are strong reasons for opposing the proposed measures to invest a larger amount of their reserve in real estate mortgages.

The Legislature passed to-day a resolution calling on the Federal Trade Commission to conduct an investigation of the conditions in the building materials market to determine whether there is a trust in control. It is understood that there are strong reasons for opposing the proposed measures to invest a larger amount of their reserve in real estate mortgages.

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CITIES REPORT PRICE DECLINE IN EVERY LINE

General Drop in Living Costs Is Indicated by Special Despatches.

BUYING ORGY IS OVER

Foodstuffs on Toboggan First, With Cloth Goods Expected Next.

POTATOES AN EXAMPLE

Boston Paid \$1.75 a Peck for Them a Year Ago, and Now Buys at 45 Cents.

On the heels of sharp cuts in prices of staple articles that have been reported from large centres in the last few days comes news that there is a general trend toward reductions everywhere and in almost everything.

The Sun and New York Herald herewith presents a summary of the situation in a large number of the principal cities of the United States.

Special to THE SUN and NEW YORK HERALD.

BOSTON, Sept. 23.—Apparently the historic dollar bill will go slightly further in the retail stores to-day than it did a matter of eight months or a year ago. Whether it can be stretched any more to-day than it could four months ago—say early in the summer—is a question.

Certain it is that certain staples, though pathetically few in number, have dropped in price. Sugar, for example, is at last selling in the retail stores at from 17 to 20 cents a pound in Greater Boston, although this vicinity continued to pay near the top prices for weeks after the slump was in full effect in New York and elsewhere.

The one other food product that has dropped substantially in price is potatoes. A few months ago they were selling here as high as \$1.75 a peck, though the average price at that time was probably nearer \$1.50. Gradually the price has tumbled until now they are quoted generally at 45 cents a peck, and some leading stores are offering them at 35 cents.

Meats, notoriously high in New England, continue "up" in the air. For example, sirloin steak costs from 45 to 50 cents; mutton, 70 to 75; roasting, 55 to 60; corned beef from 40 to 50 cents for brisket. Bacon costs from 45 to 50 cents, and whole hams from 45 to 48 cents, and 70 to 75 cents sliced. Fruits are bringing as high prices as at any time and poultry is sky high as well.

Clothing Still Well Up.

The fall offerings in local stores in men's clothing and the same appears to be the case in women's. The prices of women's goods are pretty substantial, quality considered. There is improvement over the stiff prices being quoted last winter and spring, but it cannot be said that the prices being asked this fall are any lower than anything but high. Most dealers appear to be pushing suits and overcoats at from \$60 up, and the windows are full of suits and coats ticketed at \$65, \$75 and \$85.

Substantially the same situation exists in women's apparel. The most commonly quoted prices on women's fall and winter coats of popular cloth materials range from \$50 to \$65, and it is declared to be extremely difficult getting an article of more than fair quality for the former figure. The prices asked for women's suits are proportionate to those for coats.

Buying More Carefully.

Department stores here generally report their fall business to be "very fair," and this appears to be a true statement of conditions. It is evident, however, that the consumer is more careful in adopting a decided waiting attitude on the matter of wearing apparel, except on such things as are absolutely needed. Lower prices are being awaited all along the line and, too, there is a disposition to spend one's money more carefully.

Silk goods have seen the greatest drop in the stores here, and yet the sales of silk articles, especially for men, is such as to indicate that the consumers are not "bouncing" their money as heretofore. Silk shirts, for example, sell much slower to-day at \$7 to \$10 than they were selling a year ago at from \$12 to \$20.

The prices at which retail shoe dealers are offering their fall lines can hardly be called low, yet they are an improvement over the sensational high prices of a year ago. They are higher than the prices at which millions of dollars' worth of footwear was literally "dumped" in this city during the summer by special sales, when manufacturers and jobbers alike vied with one another in clearing their overstocked shelves and warehouses.

Drop in Living Costs Strikes Philadelphia

Special to THE SUN and NEW YORK HERALD.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 23.—Observation of foodstuff prices confirms Government reports that the slide are under the H. C. of L. in Philadelphia. Vegetables are flooding the markets and are affecting the quotations on packing house produce. Vacant lots in all the outlying sections of the city have been utilized to an extent little less than during the war period.

Dealers in men's clothing are offering to-day suits for \$40 with a pair of bonus trousers. The value of the extra

Continued on Seventh Page.

Cox Letter Part of Evidence Which Moved President to Exempt Scripps Boys in War

Special to THE SUN and NEW YORK HERALD.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23.—Part of the evidence in the appeal to the President for the military exemption of James G. and Robert Scripps, sons of the wealthy newspaper owner, was a letter written by James M. Cox, then Governor of Ohio. The President, presumably influenced in part by this letter, exempted both boys from the service, reversing their local and district draft boards. When this was disclosed during Cox's campaign for Governor in 1918 he issued this formal denial:

"I never spoke or wrote a word to the President, the Secretary of War or to any draft board asking the exemption of Mr. Scripps, any one in his organization or any one else."

The Cox letter, it was disclosed to-day, was written to Earl Martin, general manager of the Scripps Service, and was used in the appeal to the President for exemption. The father of the boys owns or controls the Scripps League of twenty-one newspapers, the Newspaper Enterprise Association and the United Press Association. The Scripps League and the Newspaper Enterprise Association are ardently supporting Cox for President.

WILSON TO GET INTO CAMPAIGN

President Awaits 'Psychological Moment' to Enter as Real Leader.

HIS POLICIES AT STAKE

Party Bosses Are in Quandary About Effect of White House Utterances.

Special to THE SUN and NEW YORK HERALD.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23.—The sharp difference of opinion held by Democratic leaders concerning the advisability of having President Wilson take an active part in the campaign for the election of Gov. Cox seems about to be resolved in favor of those who want the President to try to "have the situation" by inaugurating a series of Wilsonian statements in favor of the League of Nations and in defence of the Democratic platform.

Many astute Democratic politicians who have studied the situation throughout the country believe that the chief handicap borne by Gov. Cox is his inheritance of the anti-Wilsonian sentiment. These men have been working quietly but persistently to get the President in the background and silent on the league and other issues of the campaign. They have desired to give the conscientious anti-Wilson Democrats an opportunity to vote for Gov. Cox without losing their self-respect.

Finally it appeared that this counsel of the cautious had prevailed, but to-day there were strong hints from Administration quarters that the President was merely waiting for the "psychological moment" to get into the campaign "with both feet." It was intimated that the Wilsonian statements would soon begin to appear in the White House.

Official consideration is quite another thing. It is not a question for official America. America has already meddled abroad, extensively without invitation. I have said, as I truly believe, that under the provisions of the League of Nations the Irish question is internal or domestic, and I recall distinctly that at the hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the American advocates of Irish independence bitterly opposed the league as proposed, because it not only closed the door to Ireland, but committed us to use force to maintain territorial integrity as it exists to-day."

"There are two phases of the so-called Irish question in America. Individual sentiment is one thing, and it is recognized that there is a widespread sympathy here for the cause